AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

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1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing access to a network system, wherein the network system includes a plurality of access points coupled to a network, the method comprising:

a first access point receiving identification information from a portable computing device, wherein the identification information indicates a network provider of a plurality of possible network providers, wherein said first access point includes a memory medium which stores a data structure comprising a list of identification information entries each indicating at least one network provider of the plurality of possible network providers;

determining the network provider for the portable computing device after receiving the identification information, wherein said determining the network provider for the portable computing device includes accessing the memory medium and using the received identification information to determine the network provider;

the first access point receiving data from the portable computing device; and

providing network access to the portable computing device through the network provider determined in said determining.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said providing network access comprises providing the data received from the portable computing device to a destination based on the determined network provider.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the network system is useable by subscribers of each of the plurality of possible network providers.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

maintaining and storing a usage amount by the portable computing device;

wherein the determined network provider charges for access by the portable computing device to the network.

5. (Canceled) The method of claim 1, wherein the network system includes a memory medium which stores a data structure comprising a list of identification information and a corresponding list of the plurality of possible network providers;

wherein said determining the network provider for the portable computing device includes accessing the memory medium and using the received identification information to determine the network provider.

~~6.~~ (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~network system includes a memory medium which stores a~~ data structure further comprises ~~comprising a list of identification information, a corresponding list of the plurality of possible network providers, and~~ associated methods for providing data to the respective plurality of possible network providers;

wherein said determining the network provider for the portable computing device includes accessing the memory medium, using the received identification information to determine the network provider, and using an associated method for providing the data to the network provider.

~~7.~~ (Original) The method of claim ~~6~~, wherein the data structure stores a destination address indicating a destination specified by the network provider;

wherein said providing the data comprises providing the data to the destination specified by the network provider.

~~8.~~ (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of access points are maintained by a first network provider;

wherein the identification information indicates a second network provider.

13 9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the identification information comprises a System ID of the portable computing device, wherein the System ID uniquely identifies the network provider of the plurality of possible network providers.

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14 10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

the first access point receiving identification information from a first portable computing device, wherein the identification information indicates a first network provider of the plurality of possible network providers;

determining the first network provider for the first portable computing device after receiving the identification information;

the first access point receiving data from the first portable computing device;

providing the data received from the first portable computing device to a destination associated with the first network provider;

the first access point receiving identification information from a second portable computing device, wherein the identification information indicates a second network provider of the plurality of possible network providers;

determining the second network provider for the second portable computing device after receiving the identification information;

the first access point receiving data from the second portable computing device; and

providing the data received from the second portable computing device to a destination associated with the second network provider.

15 11. (Original) The method of claim 1,

wherein the plurality of access points are arranged at known locations in a geographic region, the method further comprising:

the first access point providing geographic location information indicating a known geographic location of the portable computing device;

wherein said providing network access comprises selectively providing network access to the portable computing device based on the known geographic location of the portable computing device.

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~~12~~. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the data structure further comprises a list of access levels, the method further comprising:

determining an access level for the portable computing device after receiving the identification information, wherein said determining the access level for the portable computing device includes accessing the memory medium and using the received identification information to determine the access level;

the first access point receiving data from the portable computing device; and

providing the data received from the portable computing device to a destination based on the determined access level.

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~~13~~. (Original) The method of claim 16 ~~12~~, wherein said providing the data comprises:

providing the data to one or more resources on the network to allow the portable computing device access to the one or more resources on the network if the access level is a first access level;

providing the data to a destination for external access out of the network to only allow the portable computing device access to other networks if the access level is a second access level;

wherein, if the access level is the second access level, the data is not provided to the one or more resources on the network.

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~~14~~. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first access point communicates with the portable computing device in a wireless fashion.

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~~15~~. (Original) The method of claim 18 ~~14~~, further comprising:

assigning a wireless communication channel for communication between the first access point and the portable computing device.

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~~16~~. (Original) The method of claim ~~15~~, wherein the first access point assigns the wireless communication channel for communication between the first access point and the portable computing device.

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21 19
~~17~~. (Original) The method of claim ~~15~~, wherein said assigning comprises assigning the wireless communication channel based on the identification information received from the portable computing device.

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~~18~~. (Original) The method of claim ~~15~~, wherein said assigning comprises assigning the wireless communication channel based on the determined network provider.

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~~19~~. (Original) The method of claim ~~14~~, further comprising:

determining an access level for the portable computing device after receiving the identification information; and

assigning a wireless communication channel for communication between the first access point and the portable computing device based on the determined access level.

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~~20~~. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first access point communicates with the portable computing device in a wired fashion.

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~~21~~. (Currently Amended) A network system, comprising:

a network;

a plurality of access points coupled to the network, wherein each of the plurality of access points is operable to communicate with a portable computing device, wherein each of the plurality of access points is configured to receive identification information from the portable computing device indicating a network provider of a plurality of possible network providers, wherein each of the plurality of access points includes a memory medium which stores a data structure, wherein the data structure comprises a list of identification information entries and corresponding network providers, wherein each

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entry indicates a respective network provider of the plurality of possible network providers;

wherein each of the plurality of access points is operable to determine the network provider indicated in the identification information;

wherein, in determining the network provider for the portable computing device, each of the plurality of access points is operable to access the memory medium and use the received identification information to determine the network provider;

wherein network access is provided to the portable computing device through the indicated network provider.

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~~22.~~ (Original) The network system of claim ~~21~~, wherein each of the plurality of access points is operable to provide data received from the portable computing device to a destination based on the determined network provider.

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~~23.~~ (Original) The network system of claim ~~21~~, wherein the network system is useable by subscribers of each of the plurality of possible network providers.

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~~24.~~ (Original) The network system of claim ~~21~~, wherein the determined network provider charges for access by the portable computing device to the network.

~~25.~~ (Canceled) The network system of claim 21, further comprising:

a memory medium coupled to the network which stores a data structure comprising a list of identification information and a corresponding list of the plurality of possible network providers;

wherein, in determining the network provider for the portable computing device, each of the plurality of access points is operable to access the memory medium and use the received identification information to determine the network provider.

26. (Canceled) The network system of claim 25, wherein the memory medium is comprised in one or more of the access points.

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~~27.~~ (Currently Amended) The network system of claim ~~21~~, wherein the data structure further comprises ~~comprising:~~

~~a memory medium coupled to the network which stores a data structure comprising a list of network provider identification information, a corresponding list of the plurality of possible network providers, and~~ associated methods for providing data to the respective plurality of possible network providers;

wherein, in determining the network provider for the portable computing device, each of the plurality of access points is operable to access the memory medium, use the received network provider identification information to determine the network provider, and use an associated method for providing the data to the determined network provider.

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~~28.~~ (Canceled) The network system of claim ~~27~~, wherein the memory medium is comprised in one or more of the access points.

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~~29.~~ (Currently Amended) The network system of claim ~~27~~,

wherein the data structure further comprises ~~stores~~ a destination address indicating a destination specified by the determined network provider;

wherein each of the plurality of access points is operable to provide the data to the destination specified by the determined network provider.

44 35
~~30.~~ (Original) The network system of claim ~~21~~, wherein the plurality of access points are maintained by a first network provider;

wherein the identification information indicates a second network provider.

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~~31.~~ (Original) The network system of claim ~~21~~, wherein the identification information comprises a System ID of the portable computing device, wherein the System ID uniquely identifies a network provider of the plurality of possible network providers.

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~~32.~~ (Original) The network system of claim ~~21~~, further comprising:

a portable computing device operated by a user, wherein the portable computing device includes the identification information, wherein the identification information indicates a first network provider of the plurality of network providers;

wherein, when a first access point of the plurality of access points receives the identification information from the portable computing device, the first access point is operable to determine the first network provider;

wherein the first access point is operable to provide data received from the portable computing device according to the first network provider.

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~~33.~~ (Original) The network system of claim ~~21~~, further comprising:

one or more network devices coupled to the network, wherein each of the one or more network devices corresponds to one of the plurality of possible network providers.

wherein each of the plurality of access points is operable to provide data received from the portable computing device to a network device corresponding to the determined network provider.

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~~34.~~ (Original) The network system of claim ~~21~~, wherein each of the plurality of access points is operable to provide the data to the destination in a secure manner.

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~~35.~~ (Original) The network system of claim ~~21~~, wherein the plurality of access points are arranged at known locations in a geographic region, wherein each access point is operable to provide geographic location information indicating a known geographic location of the portable computing device;

wherein network access is selectively provided to the portable computing device based on the known geographic location of the portable computing device.

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~~36.~~ (Original) The network system of claim ~~21~~, wherein one or more of the plurality of access points are operable to:

determine an access level for the portable computing device after receiving the identification information; and

provide data received from the portable computing device to a destination based on the determined access level.

51 ~~37~~. (Original) The network system of claim 50 ~~36~~, wherein, in providing the data, said one or more of the plurality of access points are operable to:

provide the data to one or more resources on the network to allow the portable computing device access to the one or more resources on the network if the access level is a first access level;

provide the data to a destination for external access out of the network to only allow the portable computing device access to other networks if the access level is a second access level;

wherein, if the access level is the second access level, the data is not provided to the one or more resources on the network.

52 ~~38~~. (Original) The network system of claim 35 ~~21~~, wherein at least a subset of the plurality of access points are wireless access points operable to communicate with the portable computing device in a wireless fashion.

53 ~~39~~. (Original) The network system of claim 52 ~~38~~, wherein each of the wireless access points is operable to assign a wireless communication channel for communication between the first access point and the portable computing device.

54 ~~40~~. (Original) The network system of claim 53 ~~39~~, wherein one or more of the wireless access points are operable to assign the wireless communication channel based on the identification information received from the portable computing device.

55 ~~41~~. (Original) The network system of claim 53 ~~39~~, wherein one or more of the wireless access points is operable to assign the wireless communication channel based on the determined network provider.

56 ~~42~~. (Original) The network system of claim 52 ~~38~~, further comprising:

wherein one or more of the wireless access points are operable to determine an access level for the portable computing device after receiving the identification information; and

wherein said one or more of the wireless access points are operable to assign a wireless communication channel for communication between the first access point and the portable computing device based on the determined access level.

57 43. (Original) The network system of claim 35 21, wherein at least a subset of the plurality of access points are operable to communicate with the portable computing device in a wired fashion.

70 44. (Currently Amended) A method for providing roaming features on a wireless network system, wherein the wireless network system includes a plurality of access points coupled to a network, the method comprising:

a first access point receiving identification information from a portable computing device in a wireless manner, wherein the identification information indicates a network provider of a plurality of possible network providers, wherein said first access point includes a memory medium which stores a data structure comprising a list of identification information entries each indicating one or more network providers of the plurality of possible network providers;

determining a network provider for the portable computing device after receiving the identification information, wherein said determining the network provider for the portable computing device includes accessing the memory medium and using the received identification information to determine the network provider;

the first access point receiving data from the portable computing device in a wireless manner;

providing the data received from the portable computing device to a destination based on the determined network provider.

71 45. (Original) The method of claim 70 44, wherein the wireless network system is a distributed wireless network system.

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~~46~~. (Currently Amended) A method for providing access to a wireless network system, wherein the wireless network system includes a plurality of access points coupled to a network, the method comprising:

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a first access point receiving identification information from a portable computing device in a wireless manner, wherein the identification information indicates a network provider of a plurality of possible network providers, wherein said first access point includes a memory medium which stores a data structure comprising a list of identification information entries each indicating one or more network providers of the plurality of possible network providers;

determining a network provider for the portable computing device after receiving the identification information, wherein said determining the network provider for the portable computing device includes accessing the memory medium and using the received identification information to determine the network provider;

the first access point receiving data from the portable computing device in a wireless manner; and

providing network access to the portable computing device through the determined network provider.

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~~47~~. (Currently Amended) A method for providing selective access to network resources in a distributed wireless network system, wherein the wireless network system includes a plurality of access points coupled to a network, the method comprising:

a first access point receiving identification information from a portable computing device, wherein said first access point includes a memory medium which stores a data structure comprising a list of identification information entries indicating one or more access levels;

determining an access level for the portable computing device after receiving the identification information, wherein said determining the access level for the portable computing device includes accessing the memory medium and using the received identification information to determine the access level;

the first access point receiving data from the portable computing device; and

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providing the data received from the portable computing device to a destination based on the determined access level.

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~~48~~. (Previously Presented) The method of claim ~~47~~, wherein said providing the data comprises:

providing the data to one or more resources on the network to allow the portable computing device access to the one or more resources on the network if the access level is a first access level;

providing the data to a destination for external access out of the network to only allow the portable computing device access to other networks if the access level is a second access level;

wherein, if the access level is the second access level, the data is not provided to the one or more resources on the network.

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~~49~~. (Currently Amended) A first memory medium comprised in a wireless access point,

wherein the first memory medium comprises program instructions for providing access to a network system;

wherein the program instructions are executable to:

receive ~~analyze~~ information ~~received~~ from a portable computing device in a wireless manner, wherein the information indicates a network provider of a plurality of possible network providers;

access a second memory medium which stores a data structure comprising a list of identification information entries indicating one or more network providers of the plurality of possible network providers;

analyze said information received from the portable computing device with said list of identification information entries to determine a network provider;

provide network access to the portable computing device through the determined network provider.

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50. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein at least a subset of the identification information entries each indicate one or more virtual local area networks (VLANs).

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51. (New) The method of claim 25;

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wherein each virtual local area network (VLAN) specifies a network provider.

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52. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein said providing network access comprises using a VLAN specified by the identification information.

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53. (New) The method of claim 1,

wherein the data structure further stores a respective network provider for each identification information entry;

wherein said determining the network provider comprises indexing into the data structure using the identification information to determine the network provider stored in the data structure corresponding to the identification information.

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54. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the data structure further comprises a destination, wherein the destination is specified by a first network provider, of the plurality of network providers;

wherein said providing the data comprises providing the data to the destination specified by the first network provider.

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55. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said identification information comprises a digital certificate.

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56. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said identification information comprises an IEEE 802.11 system identification.

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57. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said identification information comprises a media access control (MAC) identification.

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58. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said identification information comprises a known geographic location of the portable computing device.

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59. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of access points are arranged at known locations in a geographic region, the method further comprising:

the first access point providing geographic location information indicating a known geographic location of the portable computing device.

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60. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein the data structure further comprises a destination, wherein the destination is specified by the first network provider;

wherein said providing the data comprises providing the data to the destination specified by the first network provider.

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61. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein the data structure further comprises a destination, wherein the destination is specified by the second network provider;

wherein said providing the data comprises providing the data to the destination specified by the second network provider.

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62. (New) The method claim of claim 8, wherein the data structure further comprises an associated method for providing data to the second network provider;

wherein said determining the network provider for the portable computing device includes accessing the memory medium, using the received identification information to determine the network provider, and using the associated method for providing the data to the second network provider.

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63. (New) The method claim of 62, wherein the associated method is provided by the first network provider.

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64. (New) The method claim of 62, wherein the associated method is provided by the second network provider.

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65. (New) The network system of claim 21, wherein at least a subset of the identification information entries each indicate at least one VLAN.

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66. (New) The network system of claim 65,

wherein each VLAN specifies a network provider.

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67. (New) The network system of claim 66, wherein the indicated VLAN is used in providing network access.

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68. (New) The network system of claim 21,

wherein the data structure further stores a respective network provider for each identification information entry;

wherein, in determining the network provider for the portable computing device, each of the plurality of access points is operable to index into the data structure using the identification information to determine the network provider stored in the data structure corresponding to the identification information.

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69. (New) The network system of claim 21, wherein the data structure further comprises a destination, wherein the destination is specified by a first network provider, of the plurality of network providers;

wherein said providing the data comprises providing the data to the destination specified by the first network provider.

63 35
70. (New) The network system of claim 21, wherein said identification information comprises a digital certificate.

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71. (New) The network system of claim 21, wherein said identification information comprises an IEEE 802.11 system identification.

65 ~~72.~~ (New) The network system of claim 35 ~~21~~, wherein said identification information comprises a media access control (MAC) identification.

66 ~~73.~~ (New) The network system of claim 35 ~~21~~, wherein said identification information comprises a known geographic location of the portable computing device.

67 ~~74.~~ (New) The network system of claim 35 ~~21~~, wherein the plurality of access points are arranged at known locations in a geographic region, wherein the first access point is operable to provide geographic location information indicating a known geographic location of the portable computing device.

68 ~~75.~~ (New) The network system of claim 35 ~~21~~, wherein the network is operable to support IEEE 802.1p.

69 ~~76.~~ (New) The network system of claim 35 ~~21~~, wherein the network is operable to enforce a predefined quality of service metric to a virtual port within the network.

42 ~~77.~~ (New) The network system of claim 41 ~~29~~, wherein the data structure stores a destination, wherein the destination is specified by the first network provider;

wherein said providing the data comprises providing the data to the destination specified by the first network provider.

43 ~~78.~~ (New) The network system of claim 41 ~~29~~, wherein the data structure further comprises a destination, wherein the destination is specified by a second network provider;

wherein said providing the data comprises providing the data to the destination specified by the second network provider.

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79. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein at least a subset of the identification information entries each indicate one or more VLANs.

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80. (New) The method of claim 79,

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wherein each VLAN specifies a network provider;

wherein said providing network access comprises using a VLAN specified by the identification information.

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81. (New) The method of claim 44,

wherein the data structure further stores a respective network provider for each identification information entry;

wherein said determining the network provider comprises indexing into the data structure using the identification information to determine the network provider stored in the data structure corresponding to the identification information.

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82. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein the data structure further comprises a destination, wherein the destination is specified by a first network provider, of the plurality of network providers;

wherein said providing the data comprises providing the data to the destination specified by the first network provider.

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83. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein said identification information comprises a digital certificate.

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84. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein said identification information comprises an IEEE 802.11 system identification.

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85. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein said identification information comprises a media access control (MAC) identification.

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~~86~~. (New) The method of claim ~~44~~, wherein said identification information comprises a known geographic location of the portable computing device.

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~~87~~. (New) The method of claim ~~44~~, wherein the plurality of access points are arranged at known locations in a geographic region, the method further comprising:

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the first access point providing geographic location information indicating a known geographic location of the portable computing device.

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~~88~~. (New) The method of claim ~~46~~, wherein one or more of the identification information entries each indicate one or more VLANs.

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~~89~~. (New) The method of claim ~~88~~,

wherein each VLAN specifies a network provider.

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~~90~~. (New) The method of claim ~~89~~, wherein said providing network access comprises using said one or more VLANs.

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~~91~~. (New) The method of claim ~~46~~,

wherein the data structure further stores a respective network provider for each identification information entry;

wherein said determining the network provider comprises indexing into the data structure using the identification information to determine the network provider stored in the data structure corresponding to the identification information.

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~~92~~. (New) The method of claim ~~46~~, wherein the data structure further comprises a destination, wherein the destination is specified by a first network provider, of the plurality of network providers;

wherein said providing the data comprises providing the data to the destination specified by the first network provider.

87 81
~~93~~. (New) The method of claim ~~46~~, wherein said identification information comprises a digital certificate.

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~~94~~. (New) The method of claim ~~46~~, wherein said identification information comprises an IEEE 802.11 system identification.

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89 81
~~95~~. (New) The method of claim ~~46~~, wherein said identification information comprises a media access control (MAC) identification.

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~~96~~. (New) The method of claim ~~46~~, wherein said identification information comprises a known geographic location of the portable computing device.

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~~97~~. (New) The method of claim ~~46~~, wherein the plurality of access points are arranged at known locations in a geographic region, the method further comprising:

the first access point providing geographic location information indicating a known geographic location of the portable computing device.

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~~98~~. (New) The method of claim ~~47~~, wherein one or more of the identification information entries each indicate a VLAN.

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~~99~~. (New) The method of claim ~~98~~,

wherein each VLAN specifies a network provider.

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~~100~~. (New) The method of claim ~~99~~, wherein said providing network access comprises using a VLAN specified by the identification information.

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~~101~~. (New) The method of claim ~~47~~,

wherein the data structure further stores a respective network provider for each identification information entry;

wherein said determining the network provider comprises indexing into the data structure using the identification information to determine the network provider stored in the data structure corresponding to the identification information.

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~~102.~~ (New) The method claim of ~~47~~, wherein the data structure further comprises a list of known geographic location information and a corresponding list of possible access levels, wherein the plurality of access points are arranged at known locations in a geographic region, the method further comprises:

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the first access point providing geographic location information indicating a known geographic location of the portable computing device; and

determining a second access level for the portable computing device after determining the known geographic location information, wherein said determining the second access level for the portable computing device includes accessing the memory medium and using the determined known geographic location information to determine the access level;

the first access point receiving data from the portable computing device; and

providing the data received on the determined second access level.

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~~103.~~ (New) The method claim of ~~47~~, wherein the first access point is operable to access a management information base (MIB), coupled to the network, which stores a data structure comprising a list of known geographic location information indicating possible access levels, wherein the plurality of access points are arranged at known locations in a geographic region, the method further comprises:

the first access point providing geographic location information indicating a known geographic location of the portable computing device; and

determining a second access level for the portable computing device after determining the known geographic location information, wherein said determining the second access level for the portable computing device includes accessing the MIB and using the determined known geographic location information to determine the access level.

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104. (New) The method of claim 47, wherein said identification information comprises a digital certificate.

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105. (New) The method of claim 47, wherein said identification information comprises an IEEE 802.11 system identification.

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106. (New) The method of claim 47, wherein said identification information comprises a media access control (MAC) identification.

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103 92
107. (New) The method of claim 47, wherein said identification information comprises a known geographic location of the portable computing device.

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108. (New) The method of claim 47, wherein the plurality of access points are arranged at known locations in a geographic region, the method further comprising:

the first access point providing geographic location information indicating a known geographic location of the portable computing device.

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109. (New) The method of claim 47,

wherein the access points are 802.11 wireless access points.

110. (New) A method for providing access to a wireless network system, wherein the wireless network system includes a plurality of wireless access points coupled to a network, the method comprising:

a first wireless access point receiving identification information from a portable computing device in a wireless manner, wherein the portable computing device and the first wireless access point communicates using wireless Ethernet, wherein the identification information indicates a VLAN, wherein the first wireless access point is operable to implement a plurality of possible VLANs;

the first access point receiving data from the portable computing device in a wireless manner;

the first access point using the indicated VLAN to provide the data received from the portable computing device to a destination.

111. (New) The method of claim 110, further comprising:

determining a first network provider for the portable computing device after receiving the identification information;

wherein the first access point provides the data received from the portable computing device to the destination based on the determined first network provider.

112. (New) The method of claim 111,

wherein the first network provider is determined based on the indicated VLAN.

113. (New) The method of claim 110, wherein said identification information comprises a digital certificate.

114. (New) The method of claim 110, wherein said identification information comprises an IEEE 802.11 system identification.

115. (New) The method of claim 110, wherein said identification information comprises a media access control (MAC) identification.

116. (New) The method of claim 110, wherein said identification information comprises a known geographic location of the portable computing device.

117. (New) A method for providing access to a wireless network system, wherein the wireless network system includes a plurality of wireless access points coupled to a network, the method comprising:

a first wireless access point receiving identification information from a portable computing device in a wireless manner, wherein the portable computing device and the

first wireless access point communicates using wireless Ethernet, wherein the identification information indicates at least one VLAN;

determining a network provider for the portable computing device after receiving the identification information;

the first access point receiving data from the portable computing device in a wireless manner;

the first access point using the at least one VLAN to provide the data received from the portable computing device to a destination based on the determined network provider.

118. (New) A method for providing access to a wireless network system, wherein the wireless network system includes a plurality of wireless access points coupled to a network, the method comprising:

a first wireless access point receiving identification information from a portable computing device in a wireless manner, wherein the portable computing device and the first wireless access point communicates using wireless Ethernet, wherein the identification information indicates a network provider of a plurality of possible network providers;

determining the network provider for the portable computing device based on the identification information;

the first access point receiving data from the portable computing device in a wireless manner;

providing the data received from the portable computing device to a destination based on the determined network provider.

119. The method of claim 118, wherein the wireless network system includes a memory medium which stores a data structure comprising a list of identification information indicating one or more network providers of the plurality of possible network providers;

wherein said determining the network provider for the portable computing device includes accessing the memory medium and using the received identification information to determine the network provider.

120. The method of claim 119,

wherein the data structure comprises a Management Information Base.

121. The method of claim 119, wherein the data structure stores a destination address indicating a destination specified by the network provider;

wherein said providing the data comprises providing the data to the destination specified by the network provider.

122. The method of claim 118, wherein the network system includes a memory medium which stores a data structure comprising a list of identification information, a corresponding list of the plurality of possible network providers, and associated methods for providing data to the respective plurality of possible network providers;

wherein said determining the network provider for the portable computing device includes accessing the memory medium, using the received identification information to determine the network provider, and using an associated method for providing the data to the network provider.

123. (New) The method of claim 118, wherein the wireless network system comprises a management information base (MIB) coupled to the network, wherein the MIB stores a data structure comprising a list of identification information indicating one or more network providers of the plurality of possible network providers;

wherein said determining the network provider for the portable computing device includes accessing the MIB and using the received identification information to determine the network provider.

124. (New) The method of claim 123, wherein the data structure stores a destination address indicating a destination specified by the network provider;

wherein said providing the data comprises providing the data to the destination specified by the network provider.

125. (New) The method of claim 118, wherein said identification information comprises a digital certificate.

126. (New) The method of claim 118, wherein said identification information comprises an IEEE 802.11 system identification.

127. (New) The method of claim 118, wherein said identification information comprises a media access control (MAC) identification.

128. (New) The method of claim 118, wherein said identification information comprises a known geographic location of the portable computing device.

129. (New) A method for providing selective access to network resources in a distributed wireless network system, wherein the wireless network system includes a plurality of access points coupled to a network, wherein the plurality of access points are arranged at known locations in a geographic region, the method comprising:

a first access point receiving identification information from a portable computing device;

the first access point providing geographic location information indicating a known geographic location of the portable computing device;

determining a charge for the portable computing device to gain access to the network provider based on the identification information and the known geographic location of the portable computing device.

130. (New) The method of claim 129,

wherein the identification information received from the portable computing device indicates a first network provider of a plurality of possible network providers;

wherein said determining a charge for the portable computing device is based on the first network provider and the known geographic location of the portable computing device.

131. (New) The method of claim 129,

wherein said first access point includes a memory medium which stores a data structure comprising a list of identification information entries indicating one or more network providers of the plurality of possible network providers and a list of geographic locations indicating discounts;

wherein the identification information received from the portable computing device indicates a first network provider of a plurality of possible network providers;

wherein said determining a charge for the portable computing device is based on the first network provider and the known geographic location of the portable computing device.

132. (New) A method for providing selective access to network resources in a distributed wireless network system, wherein the wireless network system includes a plurality of access points coupled to a network, wherein the plurality of access points are arranged at known locations in a geographic region, the method comprising:

a first access point receiving identification information from a portable computing device, wherein said first access point includes a memory medium which stores a data structure comprising a list of identification information entries indicating one or more network providers of the plurality of possible network providers and a list of geographic locations indicating discounts;

determining a network provider based on the identification information received from the portable computing device;

the first access point providing geographic location information indicating a known geographic location of the portable computing device;

determining a charge for the portable computing device to gain access to the network provider based on the determined network provider and the known geographic location of the portable computing device, wherein said determining the charge includes accessing the memory medium and using the received identification information and the known geographic location to determine the charge.

108 107
133. (New) The method of claim 132, further comprising:

the first access point receiving data from the portable computing device; and

providing the data received from the portable computing device to a destination based on the determined network provider.

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109 107
134. (New) The method of claim 132, wherein said identification information comprises a digital certificate.

116 107
135. (New) The method of claim 132, wherein said identification information comprises an IEEE 802.11 system identification.

111 107
136. (New) The method of claim 132, wherein said identification information comprises a media access control (MAC) identification.

112 107
137. (New) The method of claim 132,

wherein said determining a charge comprises determining a discount.

113
138. (New) A method for providing selective access to network resources in a distributed wireless network system, wherein the wireless network system includes a plurality of access points coupled to a network, wherein the plurality of access points are arranged at known locations in a geographic region, the method comprising:

a first access point receiving identification information from a portable computing device, wherein said first access point includes a memory medium which stores a first data structure comprising a list of identification information and a corresponding list of

the plurality of possible network providers, wherein said first access point is operable to access a management information base (MIB), coupled to the wireless network, which stores a second data structure comprising a list of the plurality of possible network providers and a corresponding list of known geographic locations indicating discounts;

the first access point providing geographic location information indicating a known geographic location of the portable computing device;

determining a charge fee for the portable computing device to gain access to the network provider after receiving the identification information and after said providing the geographic location information, wherein said determining the charge comprises:

accessing the memory medium to determine a network provider; and

accessing the MIB, and using the determined network provider, the known geographic location, and the network provider to determine the discount;

charging a fee for access of the portable computing device to the determined network provider.

114 113
~~139.~~ (New) The method of claim ~~138~~, wherein said identification information comprises a digital certificate.

115 113
~~140.~~ (New) The method of claim ~~138~~, wherein said identification information comprises an IEEE 802.11 system identification.

116 113
~~141.~~ (New) The method of claim ~~138~~, wherein said identification information comprises a media access control (MAC) identification.

117 113
~~142.~~ (New) The method of claim ~~138~~,

wherein said determining a charge comprises determining a discount.